

**STROHM et al**  
**Serial No. 09/744,159**  
March 16, 2004

**REMARKS**

By way of the amendment instructions above, independent claim 23 has been revised so as to include therein the principal substance of claim 27 which was indicated to be allowable by the Examiner in paragraph 32 of the subject Official Action.

It will be observed in this regard, that the language inserted into claim 23 defines clips as being present on at least one of the draining layers, whereas catch projections are defined as being present on at least another of the draining layers. Moreover, it will be observed that the clips and catch projections are recited in claim 23 as being formed on an outer side of the respective draining layers thereby rendering moot the rejection advanced under 35 USC §112.

Claim 27 has been retained but revised so as to define that the at least one and another of the draining layers are adjacent one another in the separable stack as shown, for example, in FIGURE 6.

All remaining issues advanced in the Official Action are believed to have been rendered moot by the amendment instructions above. Therefore, early receipt of the Official Allowance Notice is solicited.

Should any small matter remain outstanding, however, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the applicants' undersigned attorney so that the same may be resolved without the need for an additional action and reply.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHOF P.C.

By:

  
Bryan H. Davidson  
Reg. No. 30,251

BHD:fmh  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100